

Minutes of the THIRD (3RD) meeting of the 2013-2014 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday December 5th, 2013 at 7:15 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sarah Taylor	Crestview Elementary	Patrick Leprohon	McCaig Elementary
Christina Liburdi	Franklin Hill Elementary	Dori Raymond	Mother Teresa Jr High
Charbel Mourad	Hillcrest Academy	Lyne Charbonneau	Mountainview Elementary
Jennifer Maccarone	John F Kennedy Elementary	Karla Graham	Our Lady of Peace Elementary
Dean Dugas	Joliette Elementary	Kathleen Humphry	Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary
Christopher Tracton	Lake of Two Mountains High	Johanne Bernier	Rosemere High
Mylène Melançon	Laurentian Elementary	Rino Vetrone	Souvenir Elementary
Andy Simon	Laurentian Regional High	Roberto Bomba	St Paul Elementary
Angela Martorano	Laurier Sr. High	Sandra Morselli	Sainte-Agathe Academy (Via teleconf)
Kevin Yanicki	Laval Jr High	Sergio Di Marco	Terry Fox Elementary
Helen Xiarchos	Laval Liberty High	Deni Guerrera	Twin Oaks Elementary

ALSO PRESENT: Eileen Kelly, Assistant Director General; Gaëlle Absolonne, Director of School Organization and Transportation; Fred Greschner, Director of Complementary Services; Richard Greschner, Director of Human Resources; Nick Milas, Chairman of the Council of Commissioners; Naz Facchnio, Vice-Chairperson of the Council of Commissioners, Elio Lattanzio, Grace Nesi, Steve Kmec, Mario Di Domenico, Emilio Migliozi, Ed Turchyniak and parent guests.

ABSENT: Arundel Elementary, Genesis Elementary, Grenville Elementary, Joliette High, Jules Verne Elementary, Laurentia Elementary, Morin Heights Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, Rawdon Elementary, St Jude Elementary, St Vincent Elementary, Ste-Adele Elementary, SEAC

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:19 pm

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add
8.2 ARCH
8.3 VIVA Las Vegas
8.4 Add Safety & Security and Communication of Such

PC20131205-01 St Paul Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted as with additions. Seconded by Souvenir Elementary.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF November 7th, 2013

PC20131205-02 Joliette Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of November 7th, 2013 are accepted as presented. Seconded by Joliette High.

This motion was **CARRIED** on the following division:
For: Franklin Hill Elem, Hillcrest Acad, John F Kennedy Elem, Joliette Elem, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentian Elem, Laurentian Regional High, Laurier Sr. High, Laval Jr. High, Laval Liberty High, McCaig elem, Mother Teresa Jr. High, Mountainview Elem, Souvenir Elem, St Paul Elem, Ste-Agathe Adac, Terry Fox elem, Twin Oaks Elem.
Abstain: Crestview Elem, Our Lady of Peace Elem, Pierre E. Trudeau Elem, Rosemere High

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

As in members packages.

Please forward any links that the Chairperson includes in her report to the members of your Governing Board.

In response to a question from Joliette Elementary, the presentation from Deb and Mona on parenting in the 21st Century will be done in the new year.

4. QUESTION PERIOD

No questions

5. BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 PC Project – Website

The members voted unanimously on the structure of the website.

Please send any suggestions to the Chairperson as the plan is to have this new website launched in January

5.2 PC Nutrition Policy

The Material Resources Department is in charge of tendering and contracts for the High School cafeterias.

With reference to the concerns in high school cafeterias, the potatoes in the poutine are baked and not fried so it fits in the policy and the slushes are made with real fruit juice.

Laval Jr would like to know who exactly is in charge of adding the items to the menus, as they voted to have slushies and poutines removed from the menu in their schools. Ms. Eileen Kelly responded that the menus must conform to our nutritional policy. They must have a certification from the MELS in order to serve their foods. Ms. Kelly will ask for the nutritional value on the items in question.

Is the GB allowed to request what is allowed and what is not allowed to be put on the menu? Nick Milas and Ms. Kelly will check with the Secretary General and have the information e-mailed to members or available at the next month's meeting. Mr. Milas responded that this can also come up at the commissioners table for discussion.

Several High schools would like the following questions answered:

Who is responsible for the hiring of the caterers in the high schools?

Do the Governing Boards have a say in the food that is on the menu?

Is anyone at the school board advised of price increases by the providers?

5.3 Consultation: 3-Year Plan & Deeds of Establishment

This is voted on at Parents Committee and at Governing Board. Each GB votes on it as it pertains to their school and they send their comments to the Board. The PC votes on the document as a whole, in the best interest of all of the schools. The Chairperson recommends that this be done by e-vote as members need to discuss this with their GB's first. The e-vote will have to be done before December 18th.

Ms. Absolonne explained the consultation on the Deeds of Establishment and Three Year Plan is from November 28 to December 18, where it will then be voted at a special council meeting.

These are two separate documents to vote on. The Deeds of Establishment gives you information on the situation of all of the schools as well as the level of instruction. In the three year plan there is a lot more information about individual schools and at your GB meetings this should be discussed and voted on. In this document are the name and address of the school and the level of instruction. The information that could change from year to year is the capacity of the school (when revised) and this is based on the classroom ratios by grade level given by the MELS for that particular year. This year all school capacities and projected enrolment numbers have been revised. The projected enrolment does not take into consideration construction projects.

The 3 year plan identifies how the premises are being used. Some space in schools is reserved for archives, IT equipment, Adult Ed. etc. This space has to be identified in the three year plan. There is also a section to identify protocol of agreements which are ententes between the outside partner and the school board who keeps the school informed.

In response to a question from Joliette Elementary, Ms. Absolonne is not 100% sure of the details of how enrolment projections are made from the MELS but they have software and tools that gives them data on projected enrolment, however with their software they are unable to predict the language.

The PC delegate from Laurier Sr High read a motion that was unanimously passed at their Monday evening GB meeting asking that the Council table the vote on the deeds of establishment until a study can be conducted and another consultation be held.

The Chairperson will move forward with an e-vote before December 18th.

5.4 Upcoming Consultation: Use of Laval Schools

Ms. Absolonne presented a PowerPoint with additional information for the Laval High Schools. At status Quo it is expected that there will be approximately 100 compulsory transfers if the enrolment criteria has to be applied for the 2014-2015 school year. The process for the recommended changes to the Laval high schools would be done in two phases.

Phase 1 – Change addresses for one Junior (LJHS) and one Senior high (LSHS) so that the juniors are all in one building, and the seniors in the other, to take effect in September 2014. This is the modification of the deeds of establishment and the 3 year plan.

Phase 2 – For September 2015 – There are two models being looked at: One school, two buildings, with 1 Principal and 6 Vice-Principals; OR Two schools, one Junior high and one Senior high with one Principal and two Vice-Principals each. (with current enrolment projections)

Assuming the deeds are passed, (Phase 1) there is a plan to address the use of rooms. This is a standing item at the Directors meeting and the departments are making sure they cover everything in order for phase 1 to be successful.

The deeds and three year plan are documents that indicate where the schools are located and how the premises are being used for the upcoming school year. All this information needs to be known before the enrolment criteria is applied.

Concerns raised about bullying can be addressed in many ways. Reduce the ratios of students per Vice-Principals, maintain and continue developing workshops for students, staff and parents. The students will be consulted in the official consultation that begins in March. In response to a question raised regarding the amount of administrators per school, the number of Vice-Principal's per school is based on student enrolment in a given school. Model 1 (one school two campuses) allows for more Vice-Principals than model 2 (one junior and one senior high) because of the total student enrolment.

In order to request a new high school you need to surpass the capacity by 125 student places on the territory, but our experience with the MELS is that they have always granted us additional schools based on sector.

Based on the number of students to 2020, how will the board be able to ask for a new high school? By having a junior and a senior model (one school or two schools) it could generate an immediate growth at the junior level which will make its way to the senior level and put the school board in a position to request additional space. We are hoping that by joining the schools there will be an increase in enrolment.

The delegate from Laurier Sr. compliments Ms. Absolonne on the presentation. It covered a lot of the questions that were asked. Will the programs that are in place now be compromised? It is the intention to give all students access to all programs so that a student chooses a program and not a school. For the 2014-2015 school year all programs would remain as is. There have been many conversations between the Educational Services Department, schools, administrators, and staff on the current programs in their schools and how we can continue improving them. With the student consultation it will help to address their needs and what they would like to see.

In 2014 with the two different schools joining together, how will the problem of bullying be addressed? Ms. Kelly responded that there are many programs that can be implemented in bringing schools together. The administrators will need to bring these in. Ms. Absolonne added that these students already see each other on the bus and some are friends outside of school. Monthly reports of incidents are sent to transportation from STL but overall these reports are positive. Situations that do occur are being handled efficiently by the schools in collaboration with the STL team.

The overcrowding in Laval has been going on for many years; it is not all of a sudden. There have been consultations over the years and changes but as the years go by models need to be revised in order to meet student needs.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 2014-2015 School Calendar

Tabled to next meeting.

6.2 Change to Secondary 4 Math Exam Schedule

The Math Teachers at LRHS would like support for the cultural math exam at the end of the year to be held earlier in the exam schedule. Cultural math is the lower math program and teachers feel these students lose momentum by the time exam

day comes and do not do as well as they could if the exam was held earlier on in June. The reason it is at the end of June is because the higher math exams are taken earlier and those students have the opportunity to write the cultural math exam if they fail.

No other high schools have brought up this issue. The teachers at LRHS are hoping that if parents put pressure on the MELS it may have more of an impact. A letter will need to be drafted from this committee and sent to the MELS.

Ministry exams and calendar is set by the MELS. There is a historic precedent.

PC20131205-03 Laurentian Regional High School MOVED THAT the Chairperson will write a letter on behalf of the Parents Committee to the MELS asking for their consideration to put the Cultural Math Exam at the beginning of the exam schedule. Seconded by Franklin Hill.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

7. REPORTS

7.1 School Board's Report

- Working on a dropout prevention plan to target secondary 4 & 5 students. This will eventually be moved back to secondary 3, 2 and so on. Through research there is a profile of a drop out student. Preventative strategy commenced fall 2013. The overall purpose will be to broaden awareness, move in and incorporate strategies to work towards solving the issue. This is a first of its kind in the province.
- We have developed a CLC Vanier partnership – promoting lifelong learning community. In partnership with Vanier and St Faustin, this unique location will provide several different activities, training and learning experiences. Phase one is underway.
- The 2014-2015 re-registrations are from January 20-24, 2014. Registration January 27 to February 28, 2014.
- The open houses for the Laval High schools have been changed. Laval Jr. High is on Jan 9, 2014. Mother Teresa Jr. High is on January 16, 2014. Lake of Two Mountains High remains on December 11, 2013,
- LTMHS will be open to out of zone requests for students residing in Laval West. (west of Highway 13 and north of Highway 440) A Technology initiative will be starting next year. All secondary 1 students at LTMHS will be given a Google chrome book.
- Ms. Kelly presented some success stories in some of our schools.
- The *Tell Them From Me* survey results compare favorably with the Canadian norm. These are an integral part of MESA agreements. All schools having results lower than 90% are obliged to develop strategies to improve results.
- Parenting 21st century teens – An amazing presentation was given on two nights by Deb Kellman and Mona Segal outlining how difficult it is to be a parent in the 21st century. How do we teach them the ethics and morals of internet? It was very well attended and appreciated at the two Laval schools.
- Laval Liberty/Laval Jr Leadership Students went to Ottawa to attend Remembrance Day ceremonies. Mrs. Karigiannis, the mother of Chris Karigiannis who was killed in Afghanistan, was selected as the 2013 National Memorial Silver Cross mother who represented all mothers who have lost children in war.
- The Math data team has analyzing data from diagnostics that will help reach math goals in the MESA's. They will develop and create strategies within the schools.

7.2 Treasurer's Report

As in members packages.

Our allocation is based on 13,516 children. A report will be presented at the next meeting.

Please submit mileage claims to the Treasurer.

7.3 Parents Commissioners' Report

Included in package

7.4 RCP-3L Report (Regroupement des comités des parents de Laval, Laurentides et Lanaudiere).

Included in package

7.5 EPCA Report (English Parents Committee Association)

Included in package

The EPCA would like to know where PC's stands on Bill 60. (The Charter of Values) This item will be put on the agenda in February and give members a chance to discuss it.

The EPCA would like to present a brief that is due in early January. The chairperson will distribute the information to members by e-mail to reflect on and members are asked to share their suggestions with the Laurentian Regional delegate. Congratulations to Andy Simon, our representative from LRHS who was elected as representative and treasurer of EPCA

7.6 SEAC Report (Special Education Advisory Committee)

No meeting has been held. The first meeting will be held on January 30th, 2014.

8. VARIA

8.1 New Executive Committee – Council of Commissioners

An executive committee meeting was held, with the newly elected representatives and our parent commissioners were not invited to attend. The Parents committee would like to make sure that this oversight does not happen again.

8.2 ARCH

An inspiring video from Global was shown to members from Mountainview Elementary's "Week Against Homophobia". The Mountainview rep would like to invite the team to present at the next meeting.

8.3 VIVA Las Vegas

PC20131205-04 McCaig Elementary MOVED THAT the Parents Committee purchase 2 tickets at \$225 each. Seconded by Mother Teresa Jr. High.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

8.4 Add Safety & Security and Communication of Such

There were many parents from Hillcrest Academy in the audience. The delegate from Hillcrest Academy talked about safety and security in their school and would like to be informed about the procedures in place and open lines of communication.

Every school has a safety plan in effect. These aspects are discussed with staff and students. The School Board works with a wide range of officers who will visit schools and talk about security and ways to keep everyone safe. If a school is threatened in any way we contact the police officers to help support us and maintain a presence. When the School board feels that it can present a document to its parents, they do so, however in writing these documents the message needs to be clear and concise and remain within our purview.

The Hillcrest Academy community feels that the communication to the parents was not good.

9. QUESTION Period

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING

Congratulations to Crestview and Terry Fox. Runners up are Hillcrest and Laval Liberty

PC20131205-05 St. Paul Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting is closed at 9:48 pm. Seconded by Genesis Elementary.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved _____, 2014

Chairperson _____ Secretary _____